

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: March 31, 2022

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2022-13

To: Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) Staff and Service Providers

Subject: Lifting of COVID-19 Restrictions and Requirements for the CLDS Program

Replaces: All previous CLDS COVID-19 circulars, except for those referenced in this circular

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately

Background

After more than two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Manitoba government lifted all public health orders and restrictions in the province on March 15, 2022. Given this, all COVID-19 restrictions that previously applied to the Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) program have also been lifted. This circular outlines the impact to the CLDS program.

Rapid Response Team

Former Practice: The CLDS COVID-19 Rapid Response Team (RRT) provided assistance to service providers with Situational Management Plans (SMPs), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), wellness checks and routing requests for consultation with the department's pandemic response nurses (PRNs).

Effective April 1, 2022: The RRT will be discontinued. However, until further notice, service providers can continue to request PRN support by contacting PRN@gov.mb.ca. In addition, service providers who have questions about the procurement of PPE can contact FAMic@gov.mb.ca.

Situational Management Plans

Former Practice: Service providers reported positive COVID-19 cases for staff and participants, as well as participants who were hospitalized, in Intensive Care Unit or had passed.

Effective Immediately: SMPs are no longer required. However, service providers must report hospitalized participants and participants who have passed through incident reporting

procedures to the participant's Community Service Worker (CSW) and Residential Care Licensing (RCL), if applicable. Service providers should continue to report outbreaks or critical situations to the PRNs and/or their regional/community area program manager.

In some cases, a PRN or regional/community area program manager may still request an SMP.

Day Services

Former Practice: Service providers were required to follow public health direction regarding physical distancing, immunization and testing, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, PPE and screening.

Service providers in receipt of block funding from the department submitted CLDS Day Services Staffing Redeployment Templates to Centralized Services and Resources (CSR) or regional program manager.

Effective Immediately: There are no longer any COVID-19 restrictions for day services, including physical distancing requirements. However, please note that service providers can choose to implement their own policies and requirements with respect to PPE in accordance with [Circular COVID-19 2022-11 – March 15, 2022 Changes to Public Health Measures](#).

Service providers in receipt of block funding from the department will continue to submit CLDS Day Services Staffing Redeployment Templates to Centralized Services and Resources or regional program manager until further notice. Service providers that would like to revert back to per diem funding should contact CSR or their regional program manager.

Transportation

Former Practice: Transportation providers were required to follow public health direction regarding physical distancing (to the extent possible), keeping windows open (weather permitting), immunization and testing, hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, PPE and screening.

Effective Immediately: There are no longer any COVID-19 restrictions for transportation services. However, please note that service providers can choose to implement their own policies and requirements with respect to PPE in accordance with [Circular COVID-19 2022-11 – March 15, 2022 Changes to Public Health Measures](#).

Vaccination and Testing

Former Practice: Designated personnel needed to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or submit to regular testing, and service providers were required to complete the Reporting on Testing of Designated Persons e-form on a weekly basis. Service providers ordered rapid COVID-19 tests for symptomatic staff and participants from the department or MDA.

Effective March 1, 2022: There are no longer COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements. However, the department continues to strongly recommend that CLDS service provider staff and participants be vaccinated against COVID-19. Service providers can continue to order rapid COVID-19 tests for symptomatic staff and participants from MDA until further notice.

For further information about ordering COVID-19 tests, refer to [Circular COVID-19 2022-04r\(2\) – Rapid Tests for Symptomatic Staff](#).

Personal Protective Equipment

Former Practice: Service providers followed public health requirements on the use of PPE and order PPE from the department or the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA).

Effective Immediately: PPE is no longer required. Service providers can choose to implement their own policies and requirements and refer to public health *recommendations* as a guide. Service providers can continue to order PPE from the department or MDA until further notice.

For further information regarding PPE, refer to [Circular COVID-19 2022-11 – March 15, 2022 Changes to Public Health Measures](#).

N95 Fit Testing

Former Practice: N95 mask fit testing for service provider staff was coordinated and funded by the department.

Effective April 1, 2022: N95 mask fit testing for service provider staff will become the responsibility of service providers. If service providers wish to continue fit testing their staff for N95 masks, they can choose to as per [Circular COVID-19 2022-11 – March 15, 2022 Changes to Public Health Measures](#). The department will distribute further information to service providers regarding approved N95 mask models for fit testing shortly.

Residential Care Facility Visitation

Former Practice: Service provider staff were required to ask visitors at shift-staffed residential care facilities COVID-19 screening questions prior to visits, and physical distancing had to be maintained. Visitors followed the same PPE requirements as staff in the home for indoor visits.

Effective Immediately: There are no longer any COVID-19-related visitation restrictions or requirements for shift-staffed residential care facilities.

Wellness Checks

Former Practice: Department staff conducted wellness checks at various CLDS service locations to provide opportunities for education, learning and best practice advice.

Effective Immediately: Wellness checks are no longer conducted.

Self-Isolation/Isolation

Former Practice: CLDS service provider staff and participants and who may have been in contact with COVID-19 were recommended to self-isolate for a prescribed period. Service provider staff and participants who had COVID-19 symptoms or who tested positive for COVID-19 were required to isolate for a prescribed period. Exceptions to isolation were in place for symptomatic, but not positive, staff.

Effective March 15, 2022: CLDS service provider staff and participants are no longer required to isolate or self-isolate. However, individuals with COVID-19 symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19 are *recommended* to isolate for a prescribed period.

For further information about isolation recommendations, refer to [COVID-19 Circular 2022-12 – Isolation Recommendations](#).

Other

All other COVID-19 restrictions or requirements not referenced in this circular are eliminated, effective immediately. The department continues to encourage CLDS service provider staff and participants to follow practices that keep everyone healthy and safe, such as cleaning your hands regularly, covering your coughs and sneezes, and staying home when feeling sick.

More Information

The department continues to strongly recommend CLDS service provider staff and participants to be vaccinated against COVID-19, including booster shots. For information about COVID-19 vaccination, please visit: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html>.

For general COVID-19 information, please visit: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>.

If you have questions, please contact CSR or your regional/community area program manager.

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